

Squall Causes Shutdowns, Damage

A sudden squall bringing violent winds and snow showers hit Cohasset Friday around 11 a.m. Portions of King Street, Beechwood Street, Scholfield Road, and Route 3A were temporarily closed down after sustaining tree and property damage.

Mrs. James O'Brien of Todd Road, happened to be looking out her kitchen window at the huge weeping willow tree which had graced her yard and home since her family moved in 17 years ago. Mrs. O'Brien was aware of the wind picking up and of the sky darkening.

"I sensed a certain force. I felt like I was in the Wizard of Oz," she said. "The sky turned black. The trees bent down to the ground. The willows' branches were just picked right up by the wind. It toppled over in a wink. I felt like a friend had died."

Priscilla O'Donnell of Scholfield Road lost many, many old friends in the form of trees, as well, last Friday. Her property, in fact, was littered with felled trees, some of which had to be removed from the garage roof by the Fire Department.

Mrs. O'Donnell wasn't home at the time of the storm

and said it was a shock to see the condition of her yard when she pulled in.

"I'm on a rise here and those were real old and tall pines," she said. "They just met the wind at the right place. It seemed like something insane."

Mrs. Leo Fiori, also of Scholfield Road and a next door neighbor to Mrs. O'Donnell, said that she had never been so scared in her life.

"The sky was gray and I heard a clap of thunder. I could hear snapping of trees going in every direction. All the traffic on Route 3A was held up."

Supt. of Trees and Parks Peter Laugelle, attested to the severity of the squall which traveled in a 1/4 mile path in a southeasterly direction through Cohasset. The highest winds were estimated at 80 to 90 mph, and were strongest for about 5 minutes.

Laugelle, Police Chief Feola, and Highway Supt. Harold Litchfield and a crew from the Tree and Park Department worked swiftly removing trees blocking main roads and handling traffic. The debris was cut up and cleared away by 7 p.m., Laugelle said.



SQUALL DAMAGE — Uprooted tree, victim of high winds last week, is displayed by Mrs. James O'Brien of Todd Road.

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